

## Missouri Children's Division Training Plan 2020-2024

In FY21, the Professional Development and Training unit became centralized to provide consistent messaging in training across the state. The trainers provide training to team members across the state. On the Job training continues to be the responsibility of the regions and follows a structured lay-out which gives regions the ability to add activities that are specific to their community. In January, 2022, there were twelve trainers that rotated teaching CWPT for ten weeks. The classes were currently offered virtually and the sessions were currently started 3 weeks apart. Due to turnover in the field, CWPT was reevaluated in July 2022. It was decided that OJT would no longer be required and we would condense the training to five weeks of classes. During that time, the curriculum was updated to change over to Framework for Safety vs. Signs of Safety. This meant that Practice Model II was no longer taught. In October, 2022, training was asked again to be reevaluated in order to get new workers into the field quicker. The training was focused on the program area that the staff were working in. All workers took Foundations and Practice Model I. Investigators took Child Abuse and Neglect class and were then completed. Family Centered Workers and Alternative Care workers took Prevention and Alternative Care Classes. Any workers that performed on call duties also took Child Abuse and Neglect. This meant that investigators were finished in three weeks where Family Center Services and Alternative Care workers were completed in four weeks unless they were on call.

In addition to Children's Division directly providing training, there are other partners the Children's Division continue to engage with. These partners include, but are not limited to, Missouri Office of Prosecution Services, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, Missouri KidsFirst and Division of Youth Services. These collaborative trainings illustrate partnerships between agencies.

In this plan, trainings where Title IV-E dollars are used, elements for each descriptor will be found in the attached matrix, such as: setting of the training activity, duration category of training activity, provider of the training, approximate number of days /hours of the training, description of the estimated total cost, and a listing of activities.

The contract with the Foster Care Case Management (FCCM) agencies requires case managers to attend pre-service training. The FCCM staff can attend training provided by Children's Division staff or provide the Children's Division training themselves. Since 2020, it has been a requirement that the FCCM partners utilize the Children's Division curriculum for CWPT. Several FCCM partners were trained in the curriculum designed by the Children's Division. The training is the same training that all CD staff receive at onboarding, except for the Child Abuse and Neglect (Intake) portion since their do not work these type of cases. In addition, provisions in the contract allow FCCM staff to attend other training that CD offers throughout the year. However, any costs incurred by the FCCM staff are the responsibility of the FCCM contractor. The Children's Division does not cover travel or per diems associated with these trainings.

As of April, 2021 all FCCM staff members have access to the Department of Social Services Employee Learning Center (ELC). The FCCM staff are able to complete required trainings in the ELC. This allows Children's Division to keep track of completions. Many of the trainings required for the FCCM's by the Children's Division are e-Learnings, accessed through Employee Learning Center. This Learning management System (LMS) allows these staff members to access training in the ELC and additionally sign up for any instructor led trainings on their own without additional help by the Children's Division. This will allow Children's Division to ensure that required training is completed and aggregation of data will be more accurate.

#### *Professional Development and Training*

The Children's Division Leadership and Professional Development team coordinates and supports the development and delivery of initial and ongoing in-service training programs for new Children's Service Workers, supervisors and managers. Training is directly provided to various levels of staff throughout the 46 circuits in the state of Missouri. The training developed is based on agency policy and best practice and is designed and coordinated to provide a consistent core structure, while also providing ongoing opportunities based on needs identified through individual, circuit or region specific assessment, as well as professional development plans between staff and frontline supervisors. The professional development of staff is considered to be a "system" within the agency and must rely on numerous key elements working in concert together including classroom training, on-the-job training, and reinforcement of clinical skills in the field between staff and the frontline supervisor. The agency supports a "blended learning" approach, utilizing classroom, on-the-job field instruction, as well as on-line/self-instruction "eLearning" training which supports and supplements the classroom training and on-the-job training. The training unit also collaborates in the development and delivery of training programs with many other agencies and disciplines who serve children and families. Trainings have been conducted in geographic locations throughout the state to accommodate staff and community partners. Currently the majority of the training is offered through virtual platforms like Webex.

#### **How Ongoing Training is selected and provided to ensure the Competencies of Workers, Supervisors, Managers and Administrators**

The Children's Division Leadership and Professional Development team is responsive, on a continual basis, to meet the on-going learning needs of staff. Changes in training are based upon the needs of the agency and available resources such as budget, staffing etc. Training needs, both individual and statewide, are assessed and evaluated in several different ways throughout the year as a way to be responsive to immediate needs of a region or circuit, but to also address

policy and practice changes that have a larger statewide impact. On-going training needs are identified through:

- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) processes
- Training evaluations
- Training & policy staff joint review
- Exit interviews
- Focus group feedback
- Recommendations from the Supervision Advisory Committee
- The Division Executive Team
- Yearly training needs survey

All the above are considered when developing new training or enhancing existing curriculum. Individual needs are identified using various methods such as the ENGAGE and REFLECT employee performance evaluation and development process and on-the-job coaching tools. Based upon identified needs, staff and their supervisors mutually select internal and/or external trainings to address individual learning needs.

In July 2022, a survey was sent to all staff for staff to discuss their training needs. Staff would like more training on secondary trauma and dealing with conflict. There is a plan to work on curriculum with these areas once CWPT is completed.

Currently the Professional Development unit is working on expanding an evaluation system of training that will focus on outcomes and evidence of application in the field. This evaluation system is based on Kirkpatrick's Four Levels of Evaluation. This evaluation system will also allow the unit to identify training needs in order to develop new training along with a yearly survey of staff so they can self-assess their training needs.

Workers receive in-service training related to their specific program area, such as RSMo Chapter 210 statutory requirements for child abuse and neglect investigations and adoption training based upon COA standards. Other program staff who provide Family-Centered Services or work with the out-of-home care population receive ongoing training through outside training opportunities and through agency partnerships. Under the Leadership Development Rule, all frontline supervisors and managers are required to complete 52 hours of management training each year. Missouri Learning through Linked-In Learning will provide additional opportunities for supervisors and managers to gain hours of leadership training. All Linked-In Learning will be considered leadership training. The governor is currently looking at dropping this requirement to 36 hours per year.

All of the above on-going training is tracked through the agency Employee Learning Center (ELC). A Team Member Training Portal was developed to incorporate the outside and Linked-In courses into the ELC transcripts.

## **How Skill Development of new and experienced staff is measured**

Skill development of new and experienced staff is measured in a variety of ways using several different methods. Skill development and attainment is reviewed throughout classroom coursework, during on-the-job training, and through interactions between staff and their supervisor. The following are several different ways this is accomplished:

*On-the-Job Training (OJT)* — On-the-job training activities are part of the transfer of learning process and new workers are allowed time and support in completing these activities. In order for classroom training to have an effect on practice, participants must use their newly acquired skills in the work setting in the performance of OJT activities. Supervisors ensure that new workers have an opportunity to do all the assigned OJT activities. There are specific workers called OJT Designees who assist the supervisor with ensuring the completion of activities during pre-service learning. Worker skill and development level can be observed and assessed during assigned OJT activities and the case consultation process. Case management decisions must be made jointly between the supervisor, OJT Specialist and worker throughout Child Welfare Practice Training (CWPT). As skills are acquired, demonstrated, and applied, case work activities gradually increase with continued supervisory oversight. The OJT was restructured when the CWPT was rewritten over the summer of 2020. The OJT is in 5 guidebooks in which there are activities that closely follow the classroom. Its objective is to help workers see how the classroom applies to the field as well as offering skills and knowledge for job performance.

Completion of OJT is tracked through the Employee Learning Center (ELC). Currently staff are not required to complete OJT but are offered training for the OJT that has been completed.

*ENGAGE*—ENGAGE focuses on leaders working with their team members as individuals. ENGAGE establishes clear expectations and development goals for each team member. Team members receive regular feedback focused on how they are performing to help them and their teams improve. Leaders also have the chance to explain the organization’s direction and how team members’ work every day fits into the big picture. ENGAGE helps team members understand their roles and contributions. These conversations are opportunities to step back from the day-to-day, reflect upon work and skills, and chart a path forward to improve. Recently this system was updated to include ENGAGE 2.0. In this process, the worker is also able to give their supervisor feedback about the process and the supervisor’s interaction with the employee.

*Performance Development Leadership Awards (PLDA)*-Twice a year during the ENGAGE 2.0 process, the supervisor is able to evaluate the workers success in their position. The top 10% rated employees are given \$1500 to spend on their own professional development.

*Classroom evaluations*—Staff provide feedback using the classroom evaluation. This provides an opportunity for staff to reflect on the following: did content address the worker skill level, and did the content help them gain the knowledge and skill necessary to do their job. This information is used to guide curriculum development to better impact skill development.

*Focus Groups*—Staff and their Supervisors are invited to participate in separate focus groups after completing CWPT. They are asked questions about how prepared they are to take cases and what could make that process better. This allows for staff to freely talk about challenges they faced during their pre-service time and talk about areas that they feel are strengths. This information is used to guide curriculum development and structure for On the Job training.

The Professional Development unit is incorporating Kirkpatrick's Four Levels of Training Evaluation into the CWPT rewrite. Two trainers in the Professional Development area have been bronze certified in Kirkpatrick. This model assesses how employees are applying knowledge learned in classes. The model utilizes surveys, testing for knowledge, evidence of application in the field and outcome measures. The training team will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the classes and if there are changes that will need to be made to classes or if additional classes need to be designed. Two case reviews have been developed in order to assess workers. A contract with University of Missouri St Louis has been put in place to train, develop and implement FORECAST simulations. Simulations are scheduled to be incorporated in May 2023. The simulation can be used in person or virtually and will aid in the assessment of the worker's ability to demonstrate critical thinking and communication skills. Currently a new simulation with FORECAST is being developed to focus on case management.

Specific training conducted to help foster parents, relative guardians, adoptive parents, workers in group homes, and case managers understand and address the issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living.

The following trainings assist foster parents, relative guardians, adoptive parents, and case managers in their understanding of issues confronting adolescents preparing for independent living:

*STARS Pre-service Session Seven - Continuing Family Relationships (includes Preparing for Young Adult Life & Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement)*

*STARS In-service Module 12 -Understanding and Promoting Preteen and Teen Development*

Session 1: Transitioning to Adulthood—Resilience, Risks, and Research

Session 2: Developmental Tasks and the Impact of Trauma and Loss

*STRONG* – was developed in the Southern Regions for licensing Foster Parents. This training includes sections on trauma and loss, understanding the role of the parent, and hearing the child's voice.

*NTDC*- This is a federally developed licensing program for foster parents that is being piloted in the Northwest regions.

*Ready, Set, Fly*—‘Ready, Set, Fly! A Parent’s Guide to Teaching Life Skills’ was developed as a practical resource to help caregivers teach youth some of the skills needed to enable them to live successfully on their own. The activities are age appropriate and developmental, matching the levels of the Ansell-Casey Life Skills Assessment and Guidebook (ages 8-10, 11-14, 15-18, and 19 and older). The six sections provide comprehensive, developmental activities in the areas of daily living tasks, housing and community resources, money management, self-care, social development, and work and study skills.

*Older Youth Program* - This information is part of the Child Welfare Practice Training for front line staff and provides information for the participant to gain:

- understanding of services/benefits/resources/opportunities of the Older Youth Program
- how to access services/benefits/resources and opportunities for the older youth
- the philosophical base of the Division’s work with older youth
- the worker’s role and responsibility as a youth’s worker in providing the opportunity for the youth to fully participate and benefit from the resources of the Older Youth Program
- the role and responsibilities the youth have in the process
- the role and responsibilities of the people and agencies collaborated with in providing services to our youth

*\*\*\*All of these training courses are referenced elsewhere in the plan except for ‘Ready, Set, Fly’, which is a curriculum used at the local level.*

Professional Development meets quarterly currently with the FCCM’s and gets feedback on the training provided to the contractors. Recently, a meeting with the two contractor training departments and Children’s Division has been set up for monthly feedback. Children’s Division included the contractors in the training for the FORECAST simulations that will be used during the new CWPT. Statistics for CWPT is shared and reviewed. There have been some issues with some of the current e learnings running slowly for the contractors in the ELC. It is hoped that the new Learning Management system that the state is purchasing will decrease the issues with the e learnings.

#### *Training Provided to New Child Welfare Workers - Child Welfare Practice Training*

The initial in-service curriculum is titled Child Welfare Practice Training (CWPT). This training is provided to new Children’s Division staff and new contracted agency staff. Professional development begins when an employee starts employment with The Children’s Division. The first year of a new employee’s professional development is comprised of formal, classroom training mixed with on-the-job coaching. The formal, classroom training is provided by

centralized staff trainers and the on-the-job coaching is provided by local supervisors and OJT designees in the employee's own area. The local circuits have the ability to add regionalized training to the OJT.

**The following describes how the initial/pre-service regional training curriculum addresses issues of safety, permanency and wellbeing.**

New Employees were enrolled in a ten week on-the job and classroom curriculum (Child Welfare Practice Training). In July 2022, the training became a five week training without the requirement of On-the-job training. On the Job Training became optional due to the staff turnover. In October, 2022, the training became dependent on what program area staff worked. All new employees are required to complete the following classes:

*CWPT Foundations*- This competency based curriculum is the second week of training. It includes an overview of the agency & the legal basis for our agency's work. During all topics, participants practice and hone their critical thinking skills. The content includes evaluation of participants' values and beliefs and how they align with the agency. The agency's mandate around child safety is introduced to participants. Included in the curriculum is a discussion around the NASW Code of Ethics. Participants are introduced to the Framework for Safety concepts of threats, child vulnerabilities, and parental protective capacities

*20 hours of training credit*

*CWPT Practice Model I*- This classroom experience is provided during the third week of training. It introduces the key concepts and elements of a wellbeing orientation including the Five Domains of Wellbeing and the concept of tradeoffs, as a foundational framework and approach for working with families and colleagues. The course provides an increased understanding of the primary drivers of behaviors, decisions, and choices. Included is a skills practice around identifying and listening for challenges and tradeoffs in the Five Domains of Wellbeing in our own lives and the lives of those we work with. The third day of the class introduces trauma and its effects on the families we serve, as well as secondary trauma and its effects on frontline staff. This encompasses 18 hours of training credit.

*18 hours of training credit.*

*CWPT Team Decision Making*- This classroom experience is provided during the seventh week of training. The Team Decision Making CWPT classroom training supports and builds upon the On-the-Job training staff receive prior to and after the classroom experience. Participants are

trained on identifying the key elements of the TDM process. The content includes discussions about the important roles of parents, caregivers, youth, extended family and community partners. Training content also provides for an understanding of how the TDM process can meet the child/youth's need for safety, permanence and well-being.

*4 hours of training credit*

All new employees have the option to complete the following OJT trainings:

*OJT Foundations-* his on-the-job training starts the first week of training. It provides pre-work activities involving philosophy, understanding the laws guiding the Children's Division and becoming familiar with policy and procedures. The employee also self-evaluates themselves according to Child Welfare Practice Training competencies. The post-work activities include further exploration of the Code of Ethics, understanding the components of culture, practicing engagement skills, and asking questions using a purposeful questioning approach from Signs of Safety. Post work activities also provide an introduction to child development and assessing protective capacities and child vulnerabilities in the field.

*14 hours of training credit*

*OJT Practice Model-* This on- the-job training starts during the third week of training. The pre-work activities include exploring how children's experiences and trauma affect their behavior, how our own culture and values affects how engage with families we meet, an introduction to Signs of Safety and learning child development stages. The post-work activities include awareness of bias, demonstrating an understanding of trade-offs from Five Domains of Wellbeing, applying Signs of Safety learned in the practice model classes, identifying trauma in the field, and shadowing team decision making meetings. It includes 16 hours of training credit.

*16 hours of training credit*

New investigative employees and employees who have on call duties are required to take the following class:

*CWPT Child Abuse and Neglect-* This classroom experience is provided during the sixth week of training. This competency based training introduces participants to our statutory mandate to receive and respond to child abuse and neglect reports. Participants learn state law, agency policy, and rules and regulations that govern this program area. Participants practice interviewing skills as well as assessing and responding to threats of safety. Participants learn how to engage family court and other multi-disciplinary teams that assist in our response to investigations and assessments. Participants also become familiar with making a conclusion, notifications, and the appeal process.

*25 hours of training credit.*

*CWPT CAN Systems:* This classroom experience is provided during the seventh week of training. CA/N Systems provides instruction and practice opportunities in the FACES screens that would most frequently need to be completed over the course of a Child Abuse or Neglect report. Workers also have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the purpose of the information that is required. Workers accept a practice hotline report and enter information into the system from beginning to closure. This includes 4 hours of training credit.

*4 hours of training credit*

This is optional for the above employees:

*OJT Child Abuse and Neglect-* This on-the-job training starts during the fifth week of training. The pre-work activities include learning about state and federal laws regarding investigations, mandated reporter training, training on safe sleep, shadowing an investigation and an introduction to court. The post-work activities include additional shadowing of investigations, the use of timelines, knowing how and when to use the Child Advocacy Centers, completion of diligent searches and the referral process for developmental assessments. It also includes an e-learning on understanding protective custody.

*16 hours of training credit*

New Family Centered Services and Alternative Care Employees are required to take the following classes:

*CWPT FCS/Prevention-* This classroom experience is provided during the eighth week of training. This competency based curriculum introduces new team members to case management with an intact family. Participants study the Generalist Intervention Process and the activities needed to engage, assess, plan, intervene, evaluate, and terminate through the life of a case. Participants look at creating immediate safety interventions as well as plan and create long-term safety.

*20 hours of training credit*

*CWPT Case Management Systems I-* This classroom experience is provided in the ninth week of training. Case Management Systems I provides instruction and practice opportunities in FACES screens that would most often need to be completed over the course of a Family-Centered Service case. Staff members open a practice case and enter information into the system from opening to closing.

*4 hours of training credit*

*CWPT Alternative Care-* This classroom experience is provided during the tenth week of training. This competency-based curriculum provides participants with the knowledge of the impact of out-of-home placement on children and families. Participants explore the family-centered out-of-home care process which includes: Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), reasonable efforts, permanency goals, developing and utilizing permanency planning, and an understanding of permanency time frames. Participants discuss placement planning and selecting a home for a child, including planning for Older Youth in placement. Specific attention is placed on facilitating family support team meetings, court testimony, and ongoing responsibilities of staff including the continuous work of ensuring the safety and well-being for those children/youth who are in the care and custody of our agency.

*20 hours of training credit*

*CWPT Case Management Systems II-* This classroom experience is provided during the tenth week of training. Case Management Systems II provides instruction and practice opportunities in FACES screens that would most often need to be completed over the course of an Alternative Care case. Staff members open a practice case and enter information into the system from opening to closing.

*4 hours of training credit*

The following training is optional for the above employees:

*OJT Intro to Case Management I (FCS/Prevention)-* This on-the-job training starts in the seventh week of training. Pre-work activities include becoming familiar with community resources, filling out releases, making referrals to court, court preparedness, and helping parents work on child development skills. Post-work activities include understanding the role of team meetings and how teams work, shadowing the beginning of the case and the tools used for assessment, shadowing the end of a case and testing the safety plan, use of safety network meetings, conflict resolution, testifying, and use of appreciative inquiry with families.

*12.5 hours of training credit.*

*OJT Intro to Case Management II-* This on-the-job training starts in the ninth week of training. Pre-work activities include information on Multi-Ethnic Placement Act, training on Indian Child Welfare Act, training on permanency planning/concurrent planning (Adoption and Safe Families Act), information on foster care and rights, how to facilitate meetings, shadowing court hearings, understanding relative and other placements, older youth, and shadowing of worker visits for children, parents and placements. Post-work activities include information on Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children, demonstrating 24 hour home visits, demonstrating meeting facilitation, use of timelines, understanding child behaviors, writing court reports, and referring for subsidies. The self-evaluation on Child Welfare Practice Training competencies from week

one is filled out again by the worker and their supervisor, with the intended goal of scoring higher at this point in the training.

*23 hours of training credit*

The Professional Development Unit is continuing to rewrite CWPT so that it focuses more on skill development. There is a Pre-service model which focuses on basic knowledge of CD, professionalism, communication, the laws CD works under and basic technology and tools. This will be provided to all new staff. It will be a weeklong of e learnings and on the job training. Then the staff will move into modules based off of their specific program area. Each module is going to be two weeks long with the outcomes of 1. Critical thinking and planning 2. Assessment and 3. Engagement. Once staff complete their specific module, they will be able to work in a limited fashion in the field. Approximately every four to six weeks, the new employees will complete additional learning until they are at a year of employment. The first three weeks of training will be completed and ready for leadership review by April 30, 2023. This training will incorporate e learnings, simulations, instructor led and on the job training.

### Hotline Unit

The Hotline offers four weeks of training for new employees. A new session is determined when new staff are hired to the hotline. The classes can be very small (one to two employees) or can be larger. Staff start training in the classroom and then the training is moved to a section of the floor. After the training is completed employees are assessed to see if additional one on one training is needed before the employee is allowed to take calls. The calls are monitored in several ways after the employee leaves training. Calls may be listened to live or on a recorded option. The employees also need to have manager approval for a determined amount of time between trainers and supervisors before their training is considered complete.

Hotline training consists of:

Week one- policy/procedure/philosophy, signs of safety- 40 hours

Week two- Referrals and Call procedure- 40 hours

Week three- Assessments and taking calls- 40 hours

Week four- Investigations and taking calls- 40 hours

*In-Service Practice Model Training for Front Line Staff*

The Children's Division continues to focus training priorities on changing the culture of the agency through implementation and integration of the practice model, including the foundational practice initiatives of Five Domains of Wellbeing, trauma-informed care, Framework for Safety and components of Signs of Safety while at the same time promoting leadership at every level of the agency through High Performance Transformational Coaching – “The Heart of Coaching” and the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute’s Leadership Academy.

*Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit* - Intensive two-day (12 hours) workshop focusing on trauma awareness, sensitivity, responsiveness, and informed case planning. The Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit 2nd Edition is designed to teach basic knowledge, skills, and values about working with children who are in the child welfare system and who have experienced traumatic events. The toolkit teaches strategies for using trauma-informed child welfare practice to enhance the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families who are involved in the child welfare system. The content of the toolkit was developed by the Child Welfare Committee of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. The original version of the Toolkit was released in 2008. Training and implementation of the Toolkit has been provided to child welfare agencies and jurisdictions across the country. Revisions to the Toolkit began in 2011, and this second edition is the final result of those revisions. Changes to the Toolkit incorporate updated research and enhanced content on types of trauma, cultural implications, and long-term effects of childhood trauma, parent trauma, and secondary traumatic stress. The revised version also embodies the Essential Elements of a Child Welfare System.

*Domestic Violence Training* - The Children's Division, in conjunction with the Missouri Coalition against Domestic & Sexual Violence (MCADSV), has developed an online/eLearning domestic violence training for Children's Division staff. The following activities are addressed in this training:

Referral to services

Preparation for and participation in judicial determinations

Placement of the child

Development of the case plan

Case management and supervision

*STARS Pre-Service, In-Service, and Spaulding Train the Trainer* - Training for resource families continues to be offered and conducted on a regular basis utilizing the training curriculum purchased from the Child Welfare League of America (CWLA). Foster PRIDE/Adopt PRIDE curriculum produced by CWLA is a part of Missouri's preparation of resource families and is

called STARS, which means Specialized Training, Assessment, Resources, Skills, and Support. Staff training and Development provides the STARS Train the Trainer courses for local training teams. The local training team consists of a service worker, foster and/or adoptive parent and a supervisor of the team. The service worker and the foster/adoptive parent co-train. The service worker also is responsible for conducting the family assessment needed for licensure.

The CWLA curriculum has 12 in-service modules providing over 100 hours of training. Train the Trainer courses are conducted for the same local training teams noted above. These courses are conducted throughout the state.

In addition to STARS, adoptive parents are required to attend 12 hours of training, specific to adoption, and prior to licensure. The above teams are also trained to provide this Spaulding "Making the Commitment to Adoption" course.

All the above STARS and Spaulding Train the Trainer courses include contractors who provide the training and assessment of resource families. As of April 1, 2014, There has been two STARS classes offered with a total of 19 individuals trained. There were also four STARS for staff overviews taught in which 65 staff were trained. Three Spaulding classes were offered with 31 individuals attending.

The following activities are addressed in this training:

Referral to services

Preparation for and participation in judicial determinations

Placement of the child

Development of the case plan

Case reviews

Case management and supervision

Recruitment and licensing of foster homes and institutions

*STRONG-* Training for resource families continues to be offered and conducted on a regular basis utilizing the training curriculum developed by resource specialists and the professional development team for families in the Southern regions. This training was written to address some needs for the state in regards to getting foster parents trained more timely and having them understand issues specific to the state. This class is currently being run as a pilot. The local training team consists of a service worker, foster and/or adoptive parent and a supervisor of the team. The service worker and the foster/adoptive parent co-train. The service worker also is responsible for conducting the family assessment needed for licensure. Since April 1, 2020, three STRONG classes were offered with 25 individuals completing it.

The following activities are addressed in this training:

Referral to services

Preparation for and participation in judicial determinations, understanding Missouri child Welfare law

Placement of the child

Development of the case plan, working with birth parents and understanding permanency

Case reviews

Case management and supervision, understanding Children's Division Practice Model including 5 domains, Signs of Safety and Trauma informed care

Recruitment and licensing of foster homes and institutions

*Worker Safety Training* – A need for a comprehensive training package on how to be safe as a practitioner was expressed through staff focus groups. Safety begins with adequate awareness of the trauma a family or child may have experienced and the use of language and conversation that are trauma sensitive. Workers need to have further development in de-escalation skills and environmental awareness. It is believed that by giving staff the adequate skills needed to do their job safely they can then have their primary need for safety met and be able to focus on the family and children's needs. Working with the Department of Social Services Human Resources, a revised worker safety curriculum was implemented. Staff are required to take this class every three years.

*SDM Safety Assessment Training*-CD worked with Evident Change to develop a new safety assessment. Trainers were trained by Evident Change on the safety assessment and started training staff on how to use the assessment. This training focuses on safety threats, parental capacities and child vulnerabilities. It also defines a household.

*Facilitating Team Meetings Training*- With the introduction of Temporary Alternative Placement Agreements (TAPA), all staff members are able to conduct team meetings. A new training was developed to train staff on how to facilitate meetings in an impartial and consistent manner. Staff are trained on the 5 stages of a meeting and get a chance to practice facilitating portions of a meeting.

*Advanced Human Trafficking*- This is an intensive 2 day workshop for all frontline and supervisory staff on the important topic of human trafficking in the United States. Participants are led in discussions regarding the impact and implications of this growing problem to the field

of child welfare. The content of this class has two pre-requisite classes. One of the pre-requisites is Intro to Human Trafficking and the other outlines the assessment form staff use to evaluate the presence of human trafficking called Assessing Human Trafficking.

## **Supervisor Training**

### *Initial In-Service Training*

The Children's Division, in partnership with the Department of Social Services Human Resource Center (HRC), has developed a comprehensive skills based training structure for front line supervisors. The structure requires new CD supervisory staff to complete the following initial in-service training:

Within 2 months of hire/promotion into a supervisory/managerial position after July 1, 2020, the following courses should be completed:

<b>Course</b>	<b>Delivery Method</b>
New Manager Foundations (LI000001) 1 HR	MO Learning
Ken Blanchard on Servant Leadership (LI000002) 27 MIN	MO Learning
Hiring, Managing, and Separating from Employees (LI000003) 1HR 40M	MO Learning
Managing a Diverse Team (LI000004) 1HR 20M	MO Learning
Cybersecurity Updates	Monthly on-line courses
ENGAGE 2.0 Overview (HR000362) 2HR	Virtual Classroom

Within 6 months of hire/promotion, the following courses should be completed.

<b>Course</b>	<b>Delivery Method</b>
The Heart Of Coaching – Leader workshop (HR000330) 14 HR	Virtual Classroom
Managing ADA (HR000146) 3 HR	Virtual Classroom
Managing FMLA (HR000138) 3 HR	Virtual Classroom
Effective Discipline (HR000034) 6 HR	Virtual Classroom
Civil Rights & Diversity – Supervisors (HR000070) 6 HR	Virtual Classroom
MO Careers Overview and Hiring (HR000367) 2 HR	Virtual Classroom
Leading Productive Meetings (LI000005) 1HR 4M	MO Learning
Succeeding in a New Role by Managing Up (LI000006) 20M	MO Learning
Building Trust (LI000007) 58M	MO Learning

The transition to supervision is challenging. Becoming a supervisor often means experiencing changes in your relationships, roles, responsibilities, and routines. Effective supervision is a skill. It helps in the transition for the supervisor to understand some basic concepts and functions of effective supervision (i.e., planning, organizing, leading/directing, and controlling). A curriculum was developed for supervisors but it still needs some work and approval. This curriculum has a pause on it currently until the new cwpt is completed.

### *Ongoing In-Service Training*

In addition to the initial training provided to supervisors, the Children's Division and the Department HRC continue to offer a variety of in-service training modules to provide supervisors and managers professional development opportunities beyond the initial training. Examples of the competency based modules that are available include The Heart of Coaching, Character in Action, Effective Discipline. The in-service training will continue to be offered in FY2021.

Professional Development has started to work on providing preview classes to supervisors so that they can understand what their staff will learn in training sessions. During the last fiscal year, classes in SDM safety assessment and Central Consult Unit training had a supervisor preview class and these were found to be successful to help staff in implementation. These preview classes will continue.

*Missouri CD Leadership Academy* – Strengthening the workforce also includes strategies to provide the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) Leadership Academy to field and central office leadership teams. As feedback from staff focus groups and the initial Comprehensive Organizational Health Assessment (COHA) have shown, there is a need to support supervisor and management professional development; to support environments ready for creating and cultivating sustainable models of peer support; and to support the development of leadership skills. Incorporating High Performance Transformational Coaching within the Leadership Academy aims to effectively create leadership at every level, nurture and enhance professional sharing and peer support.

*Learning Circles for Supervisors* - Learning Circles for supervisors provide ongoing professional development, offer frontline supervisors an opportunity to have reinforcement activities and conversations on specific supervision topics, and provide supervisors with the ability to problem-

solve together through group discussions, action planning, and reviewing the effects of application in actual practice. Learning Circles are designed to provide an ongoing mechanism for supervisors to enhance and improve their practice.